

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089454

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, YO

SUBJECT: PRESS ACCREDITATION FOR BELGRADE CSCE MEETING

REF: BELGRADE A-51 OF MARCH 9, 1977

1. REFAIR TRANSMITTING NOTE FROM SECRETARIAT FOR BELGRADE CSCE MEETING ON PROCEDURES FOR PRESS ACCREDITATION WAS RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT ONLY APRIL 19. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT MAY 1 DEADLINE FOR PRESS TO APPLY FOR ACCREDITATION MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR MANY AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER MEDIA TO MEET AND THAT PROBLEMS COULD ARISE IF YUGO-SLAVS WERE TO INSIST THAT JOURNALISTS REQUESTING ACCREDITATION AFTER THAT DATE COULD NOT COVER MEETING. YUGOSLAV NOTE ALSO DOES NOT INDICATE WHETHER MAY 1 DEADLINE IS INTENDED TO APPLY ONLY FOR PREPARATORY MEETING WHICH IS TO BEGIN JUNE 15 OR TO MAIN MEETING IN FALL AS WELL. WE ANTICIPATE THAT FEW AMERICAN MEDIA WILL WISH
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TO HAVE CORRESPONDENTS FULL TIME IN BELGRADE FOR EITHER MEETING. MANY WILL WISH TO GAIN BETTER IDEA HOW BIG A STORY MEETINGS ARE BEFORE DECIDING THEIR COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS. IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO LOCK THEM INTO COMMITMENTS MORE THAN SIX WEEKS BEFORE PREPARATORY MEETING BEGINS.

2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT SECRETARIAT AND SEEK CLARIFICATION OF ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES. IN PARTICULAR WE WOULD WISH TO LEARN HOW FIRM MAY 1 DATE IS; WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF JOURNALISTS REQUEST ACCREDITATION AFTER THAT DATE BUT BEFORE PREPARATORY MEETING CONVENES, AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF ACCREDITATION IS REQUESTED DURING COURSE OF MEETING? WE DO NOT ENVISAGE THAT SUBSTANTIVE PARTS OF PREPARATORY MEETING WILL BE OPEN TO PUBLIC. WOULD NON-ACCREDITATION MEAN ONLY THAT A JOURNALIST COULD NOT USE PRESS CENTER FACILITIES IN CONGRESS CENTER, OR WOULD YUGOSLAVS REFUSE TO ISSUE VISA FOR JOURNALISTIC WORK TO NEWSMAN WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED ACCREDITATION? WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION AS TO WHETHER PRESENT ACCREDITATION PROCEDURE IS MEANT TO APPLY TO FALL MEETING AS WELL AS PREPARATORY MEETING.

3. WE WILL TAKE STEPS TO ADVISE PRESS OF ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES ONCE WE HAVE CLARIFICATIONS OF ABOVE POINTS. WE WILL WAIT UNTIL WE HAVE THESE CLARIFICATIONS BECAUSE OF POSSIBILITY THAT ANNOUNCEMENT AT THIS TIME COULD PROVOKE SPECULATION ABOUT YUGOSLAV MOTIVES IN SETTING SUCH AN EARLY DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS. WE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO ALLAY SUCH CONCERNS AFTER EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SECRETARIAT. IN VIEW OF TIME EXIGENCIES, WE WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT BY IMMEDIATE CABLE SLUGGED FOR ATTENTION OF EUR/RPM.

4. REFAIR ARRIVED WITHOUT ACCREDITATION APPLICATION FORMS ATTACHED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF EMBASSY WOULD MAIL
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FORMS TO EUR/P.

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